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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. AMBASSADOR INAUGURATES NEW MULTI-PURPOSE CYCLONE SHELTER FOR THE PEOPLE OF HAMIDIA

DHAKA, APRIL 6 -- U.S. Ambassador James F. Moriarty officially opened a new Multi-Purpose Cyclone Shelter (MPCS) in Hamidia today, the latest cyclone shelter built with funding from the U.S. Government, through the U.S. Pacific Command Humanitarian Assistance Program. Also attending the ceremony were Gias Uddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Cox's Bazar, and Nibash Chandra Majhi, Superintendent of Police, Cox's Bazar.

In his remarks to the assembled audience, Ambassador Moriarty said, "Today's inauguration represents one of many examples of the strong partnership that exists between the Government of Bangladesh and the United States Government. It demonstrates how the people of Bangladesh and the people of the United States are working together for a common goal: the protection and the security of the people of Bangladesh."

Over 40 shelters have been built since 2008 in Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal, and Rajshahi districts at a total cost of \$10 million. Each shelter can accommodate up to 1,200 people in the event of an emergency. When not needed as a shelter, each MPCS serves as a fully furnished three-room schoolhouse for 120 children. An additional 10 shelters will be built in 2011, with up to 100 shelters planned for the future.

The U.S. Government supports programs in five key areas in Bangladesh: improving health and pre-primary education; creating income opportunities for rural poor; supporting good governance; enhancing food security; and strengthening disaster preparedness and providing emergency assistance following natural disasters. Since 1971, the U.S. Government has provided over \$5.8 billion in assistance to Bangladesh.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)